

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-4 and 6-23 are currently pending. Claims 1-4, 6, 11, 18, and 20 have been amended. Claim 5 has been canceled and claims 21-23 have been added. No new matter has been added. Support for the amended and new claims may be found in the specification as originally filed at page 4, lines 20-30,

Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Wu (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0135562).

Claims 11-14 and 18-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Su (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0001819).

Claims 5-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wu in view of SU.

Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wu in view of Su and Nakamura et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,801,967).

Claim 15 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Su.

Claim 16 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wu in view of Su.

Claim 1 has been amended to overcome the rejection over Wu. Specifically, Wu discusses a mouse having a top housing with a smooth top surface. The top housing includes one or more key plates formed therein. The key plates are coupled to a palm rest portion of the top housing by hinge recesses (see FIG. 2B of Wu and the discussion thereof) formed on a bottom surface of the top housing. The hinge recesses either slant backward from a central region of the mouse or extend perpendicularly from the central region (see FIGs. 3 and 4 of Wu).

In contrast, the left and right hinge recesses of the claimed embodiment of claim 1 slant forward from a central region of the upper member of the input device. As explained in the specification of the application at paragraph 24, the forward slant of the hinge recesses reduces the closing effect of the key plates as they are pressed. Because Wu fails to discuss the hinge recess configuration of amended claim 1, Wu fails to disclose every limitation of amended claim 1. Therefore, Wu fails to anticipate amended claim 1.

Claim 18 has been amended to recite similar limitation as those of amended claim 1 that was distinguished from Wu above. Therefore, amended claim 18 should be patentable over Wu for at least the above reasons.

Claim 11 has been amended to overcome the rejection over Su. Su discusses a mouse having key plates that extend smoothly from a palm rest portion of a top housing. The bottom surfaces of the key plates include driving levers that are configured to activate switches disposed under the driving levers.

In contrast, the bottom surface of the input device of amended claim 11 includes “a bottom case including an alignment groove configured to align with an alignment protrusion of a charging base configured to receive the input device for charging the input device.” Su fails to discuss a bottom housing of an input device that includes an alignment groove, and fails to discuss that the groove is configured to align with a protrusion of a charging base for charging the input device. Applicants note that Nakamura fails to make up for the deficiencies of Su. Nakamura discusses a mouse that may be used in a wireless or wire mode. See Nakamura at Col. 8, lines 30-42 and FIGs. 7 and 9. In the wire mode of Nakamura, a USB cable having a male end is plugged into a female receptacle on a front portion of the mouse. The VCC line of the USB plug is configured to power the Nakamura mouse and charge the mouse’s batteries. Applicants note that the Nakamura mouse does not have a “groove” as recited in amended claim 11 that is configured to align with a protrusion of a charging base. Neither the male end nor the female receptacle of the Nakamura mouse and wire are grooved, but have standard rectangular shapes used for USB connectors. Further, the USB cable of Nakamura is not a charging base, but is a standard USB wire. For at least these reasons Nakamura fails to make up for the deficiencies of Su. Therefore, amended claim 11 is patentable over Su and the combination of Su and Nakamura.

Claim 18 has been amended to overcome the rejection over Su. Specifically, Su discusses a mouse having a top housing with a smooth top surface. The top housing includes one or more key plates formed therein. See FIG. 1 of Su and the description thereof. The key plates are coupled to a palm rest portion of the top housing at approximately a vertical support member 22 shown in FIGs. 2 and 3 of Su. Nowhere does Su describe that the key plates are coupled to

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the palm rest via hinge recesses, and Su would therefore also fail to describe hinge recesses that angle forward from a central portion of the Su mouse. For at least these reasons Su fails to disclose every limitation of amended claim 18. Therefore, Su fails to anticipate amended claim 18.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,


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